This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 30, 2005. Claims 1-24 and 38, 41, 44 and 45 are pending in this application, of which Claims 1, 13, 24, 41 and 45 are in independent form. Claims 39, 40, 42, 43 and 46-48 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 13, 24, 41 and 45 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 2-8, 10, 11, 14-19, 21, 22 and 38 have been amended to ensure consistency of terminology; no change in scope is either intended or believed effected by these changes. Favorable reconsideration is requested. The canceled claims will not be discussed further herein.

Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 13, 15, 18, 20, 24, 41, 44 and 45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001-0032218A1 (Huang); and Claims 2, 4-6, 8, 10-12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21-23 and 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,351,317 (Sasaki et al.).

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 13, 24, 41 and 45 in terms that more clearly define what he regards as his invention. Applicant submits that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus for generating image data of a document by processing document data representing the document and described in a predetermined structured description language. The apparatus comprises analysis means for analyzing the document data and recognizing font size information contained in the document data. The font size information is information on

the font size applied to a character or a character train contained in the document represented by the document data. The analysis means also recognizes the character or the character train contained in the document represented by the document data to which the font size information is applied.

The apparatus also comprises instruction input means for entering, via an operation panel, information relating to a standard font size to be used for formatting the document data for printing on at least one print page, and image forming means for executing an image forming process such that data representing the character or the character train recognized by the analysis means is outputted for printing on the at least one print page at the standard font size entered by the instruction input means instead of the font size represented by the font size information contained in the document data. The apparatus additionally includes printing means for printing data based on print data formed in the image forming process executed by the image forming means. The document data does not include the concept of page.

Among other notable feature of Claim 1 is that the standard font size is entered via an operation panel of the image processing apparatus. By virtue of the structure recited in Claim 1, the user can print a document with the standard font size regardless of the font size set in the document.

In contrast, as discussed in the Preliminary Amendment dated September 15, 2005, the publication to Huang is understood to merely relate to a method for producing structured documents with user-defined document type definitions and to provide a document conversion process for converting an unstructured document into a metafile and modifying the metafile in accordance with received document type definitions (paragraphs [0003], [0011], and [0013]). But this patent is not understood to disclose or suggest at least an "instruction input means for entering, <u>via an operation panel,</u>

information relating to a standard font size to be used for formatting the document data for printing on at least one print page," as recited by amended Claim 1 (emphasis added).

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is allowable over Huang.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against Claim 1.
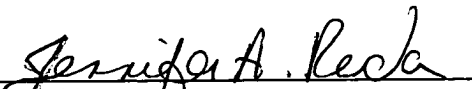
Independent Claims 13, 24, 41 and 45 recite features similar to those discussed above with respect to Claim 1 and, therefore, are also believed to be patentable over the cited prior art for the reasons discussed above.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are, therefore, believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests early and favorable continued examination of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer A. Reda
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 57,840

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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